

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Circuit A circuit for a lamp, comprising:
[[[-]]] a first sub-circuit for connecting to mains voltage of a predetermined frequency for rectifying the mains voltage;
[[[-]]] a second sub-circuit connected to the first sub-circuit for providing an alternating current required for the lamp; and
[[[-]]] a control circuit which is connected to the first and the second sub-circuit and which controls the frequency of the alternating current subject to a varying component of the mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit.

2. (Currently Amended) Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The circuit of claim 1, wherein the first sub-circuit comprises a

filter with one or more coils and capacitors, a rectifier circuit, an (electronic) switch and a buffer capacitor that is coupled to its output terminals.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The circuit of claim 1, wherein the second sub-circuit comprises a converter circuit for stabilizing direct current and a switching device for providing a square-wave current of a desired level of for instance +/-0.8 A for normal operation of the lamp.~~

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The circuit of claim 1, wherein the control circuit is connected on one side to an (electronic) a switch in the first sub-circuit and on the other side to one or more (electronic) switches in the a switching device, so that the phase and/or frequency of the lamp current controlled by the switching device is controlled subject to a varying component of for instance 50 Hz variation of the predetermined frequency of the mains voltage or a multiple thereof (in the USA and Japan 60 Hz or a multiple thereof).~~

5. (Currently Amended) Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The
circuit of claim 1, wherein the frequency of the alternating
current provided by the second sub-circuit is synchronized with a
varying component variation of the predetermined frequency of the
mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit.

6. (Currently Amended) Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The
circuit of claim 1, wherein the control circuit controls the phase
of the alternating current provided by the second sub-circuit such
that this is the same as the phase of a the varying component of
the rectified mains voltage supplied by the first sub-circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The
circuit of claim 1, wherein the second sub-circuit comprises an
igniter for generating voltage pulses across the lamp so as to
ignite the lamp.

8. (Currently Amended) Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The
circuit of claim 1, wherein the rectified mains voltage is in the
order of magnitude of 400 V and the voltage across the lamp is in

the order of magnitude of 100 V to 150 V.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The circuit of claim 1, wherein the varying component of the rectified mains voltage has a peak-to-peak value in the order of magnitude of 10-100 V.~~

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for operating a lamp, comprising the ~~steps~~ acts of:

[[[-]]] rectifying a supplied mains voltage and bringing it to a desired voltage level; and

[[[-]]] generating an alternating current;
wherein the frequency of the alternating current is controlled subject to a varying component of the rectified mains voltage.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Method for operating a lamp as claimed in~~ The method of claim 10, wherein the phase of the alternating current is equal to the phase of the varying component of the rectified mains voltage.

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12. (New) The circuit of claim 3, wherein the desired level is
+/-0.8 A for normal operation of the lamp.